STAR WARS™

THE OFFICIAL STARSHIPS & VEHICLES COLLECTION

31

THE ESCAPE POD

R2-D2's emergency craft

Treacherous Garindan

Polis Massa

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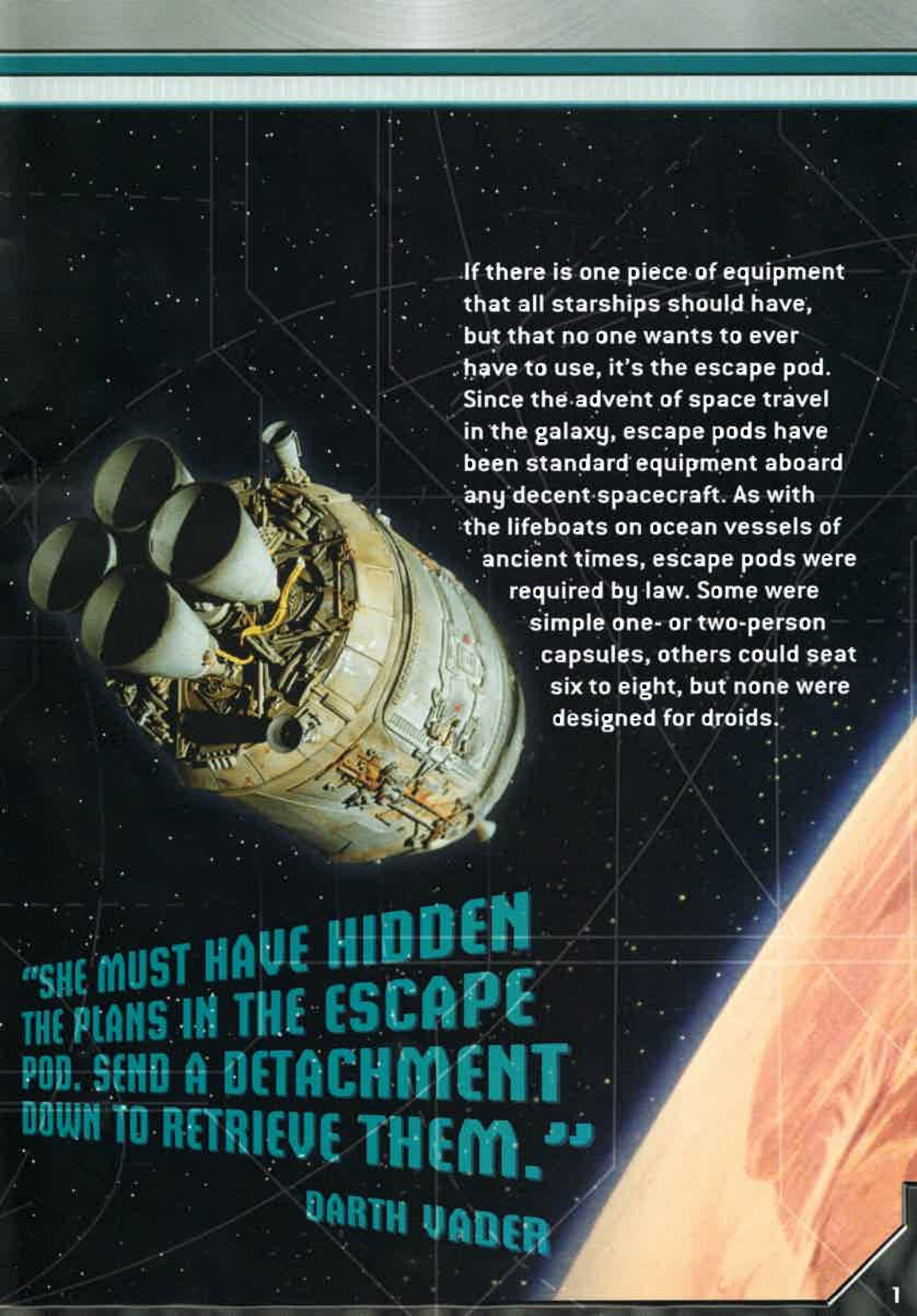
STAR WARS



If there is one piece of equipment that all starships should have, but that no one wants to ever have to use, it's the escape pod. Since the advent of space travel in the galaxy, escape pods have been standard equipment aboard any decent spacecraft. As with the lifeboats on ocean vessels of ancient times, escape pods were required by law. Some were simple one- or two-person capsules, others could seat six to eight, but none were designed for droids.

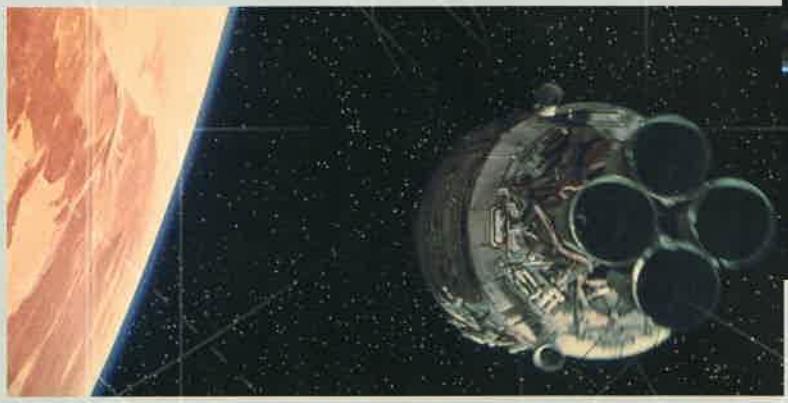
"SHE MUST HAVE HIDDEN THE PLANS IN THE ESCAPE POD. SEND A DETACHMENT DOWN TO RETRIEVE THEM."

DARTH VADER

ESCAPE PODS

PRACTICAL BUT RARELY COMFORTABLE

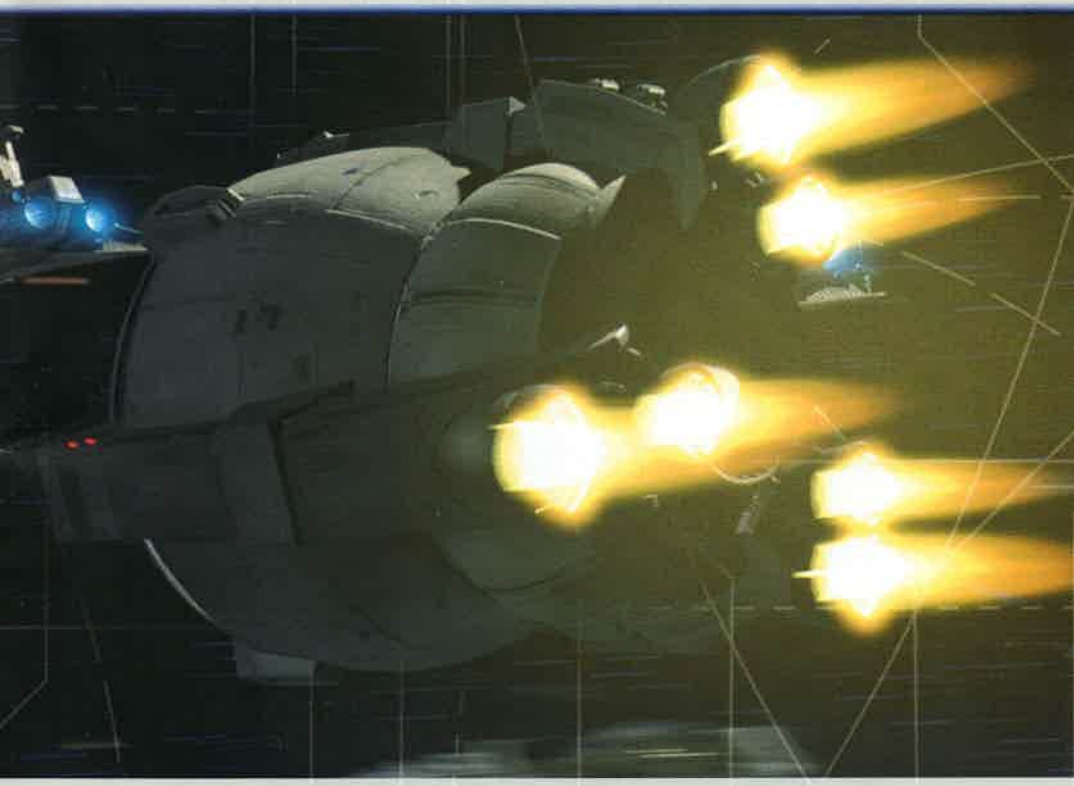
In the Galactic Republic, during the rule of the Empire, and on into the New Republic and beyond, starships have been required to have sufficient escape pods on board to evacuate all organic passengers and crew. But droids were not a consideration.



Escape pods all fitted the same basic design, with the exception of the luxury end of the market. As compact as possible, they carried little by way of comforts beyond the bare essentials. Generally, escape pods had form-hugging gravity couches to protect each occupant from the g-force experienced during acceleration and landing. Some species used harnesses and repulsorlift or inertial damping technology, or even cushioning foam or liquids if their physiology prevented the use of a couch. Whatever the device, the intention was to safely cushion the occupants against the worse bumps and bangs of what was a no-frills ride.

Escape Drill

Most escape pods were jettisoned from the mother vessel, through the use of explosive latches or their own



small chemical rockets, on the simple press of a usually very large, very obvious button. This was to allow for potentially injured passengers who might otherwise not have been able to operate more complex equipment. Such consideration extended to most of the rest of the technology aboard escape pods. Unless manually overridden by the passengers, escape pods had automated systems capable of scanning for nearby habitable planetary bodies, navigating to them and, as safely as possible, landing on them. All through this process and beyond, automated distress beacons would call for assistance – ignoring these was an offence punishable under galactic law for thousands of years. Firing on an escape pod, or otherwise molesting it or its occupants, was considered an act of piracy, the punishments for which were very severe indeed.

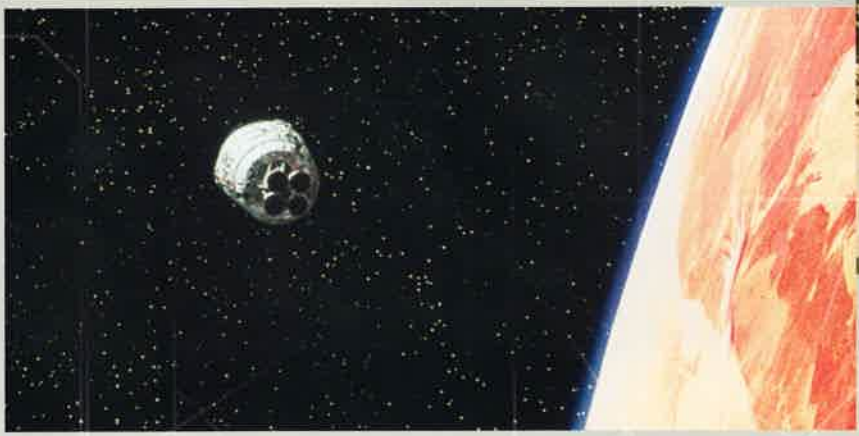
Emergency Equipment

Most galactic law regarding escape pods was very strict. Though the precise details varied through galactic history, and sometimes on a system-by-system basis, it wasn't uncommon for starship escape pods to be required to carry basic medical equipment – either simple medpack first-aid kits, or even a more advanced medkit. Though not always required by legislation, it was usual for escape pods to carry compact rations – food, oxygen and water (or the species-specific alternative) – for two weeks for the passenger complement of the pod. Generally, it was expected that escape pods could be used as a basic shelter on landing on a suitable planet. Some pods came equipped with additional survival shelters, or with equipment to modify or extend the shelter offered by the pod. Breathing masks, portable lighting equipment and communication devices, and even defensive hand weapons, could also be carried by more expensive escape pods.

TATOOINE MISSION!

DELIVERING THE DEATH STAR PLANS

The Alderaanian diplomatic vessel *Tantive IV* had been Princess Leia Organa's home during her short time as Alderaan's representative in the Senate. However, it was her activities as a member of the Rebel Alliance that sealed the fate of the ship and its crew.



Leia ran foul of the Emperor's agent, Darth Vader, as she raced to deliver a set of plans for the Empire's secret Death Star project. Having intercepted the plans but failed to pass them on to a courier, Leia headed for Tatooine to meet and bring to Alderaan her father's former ally Obi-Wan Kenobi – one of the last Jedi Masters. Unfortunately, Darth Vader caught up with the *Tantive IV* over Tatooine and captured the ship.

Guardian of the Future

Leia was able to hide the plans aboard astromech droid R2-D2.

Even as Imperial stormtroopers blasted their way onboard, R2 escaped with the plans on one of the remaining six-seater Faberstien-Lago 37s escape pods, of which the ship carried eight. R2 and his counterpart, protocol droid C-3PO, watched on the pod's viewscreen as their small escape vehicle dropped away from the captive Rebel ship and the Star Destroyer that held it. They had no idea that their pod had just missed being blasted by the guns of the Imperial ship...

The *Tantive IV* was also fitted with four armed Faberstien Maximum Capacity lifeships, each mounting a Taim & Bak H9 single turbolaser.

Desert Adventure

On Tatooine, R2 and 3PO managed a relatively controlled landing in the Dune Sea. R2 turned off the pod's distress beacon, although the ruse served only to delay the Imperials searching for the pod – and, on its discovery, for the droids who had now fled the scene. Darth Vader had personally ordered the quest for R2 and 3PO but meanwhile, the droids were captured by Jawas and sold on, coming into the care of Luke Skywalker. The rest is history. The escape pod itself was found by the Jawas who captured the droids, and lost forever when their sandcrawler was destroyed by Vader's troops.

R2-D2

LEGENDARY ASTROMECH DROID

When Industrial Automaton launched the R2 astromech series, the company's advertising slogan was 'No job is over this little guy's head'. That simple advertising tagline could easily sum up the most famous of the R2 series – R2-D2, a droid who not only witnessed history, but also changed it.

R2's precise point of 'birth' has been lost in the midst of the many upgrades that the little droid has undergone through the years. Most significant of the modifications were those made by the Royal Engineers of Naboo, who were probably R2-D2's first owners. Astromech droids were designed to work with everything from starfighters to capital ships and R2-D2 worked in the Royal Hangar in Theed. Although he was able to interface directly with the new Naboo N-1 starfighters, R2 was assigned a maintenance role aboard the Royal Starship of Queen Amidala. The upgrades and additional equipment that were added to astromechs formerly owned by the Royal Engineers of Naboo made their R2 units highly sought after elsewhere in the galaxy and R2 was a perfect example of this.

Troubled Times

When the Trade Federation invaded Naboo, it was the first large-scale move in the plans of Darth Sidious to destroy the Jedi, overthrow the Republic and create an Empire. After Amidala was rescued by two Jedi ambassadors, she and her escorts attempted to flee Naboo through the Trade Federation blockade. The Royal Starship was damaged, with its shields failing. Of the droids sent out onto the skin of the vessel, only R2 survived to make an inventive bypass around the damaged circuits, saving the ship.

Fateful Meeting

When the starship was forced to land on Tatooine for repairs, R2-D2 met two individuals who were to be a huge part of his future – Anakin Skywalker and protocol droid C-3PO. After the Queen's return to Naboo to free her people, R2 accidentally found himself flying an N1 starfighter piloted by the young Anakin. Together, they managed to destroy the Trade Federation droid control ship and thus deactivate the army occupying Naboo.

R2-D2 was a long-time companion of Anakin Skywalker and later of his son, Luke Skywalker. He also served Luke's twin sister, Leia.

PROFILE

R2-D2

Homeworld
Unknown

Height
96cm

Manufacturer
Industrial Automaton

Affiliation
Skywalker Family

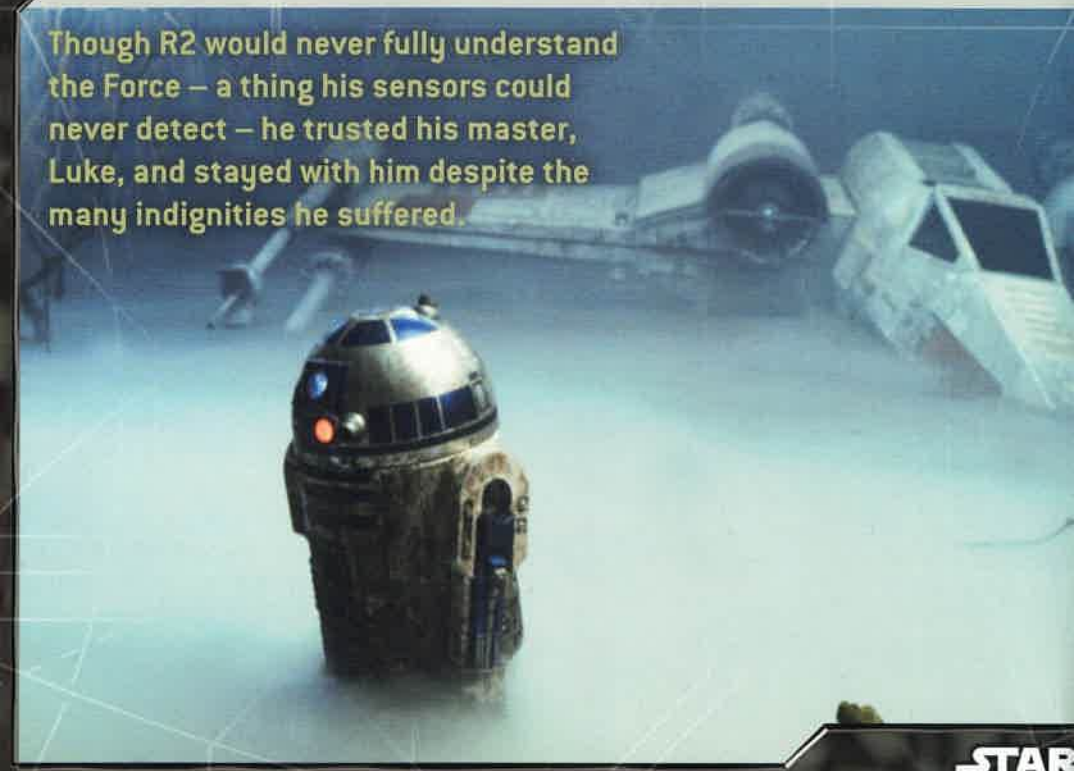
The Clone Wars And Beyond

R2 was reunited with C-3PO when Anakin travelled to Tatooine many years later aboard Padmé Amidala's personal ship. Now a Senator, Amidala had retained R2-D2 as her personal astromech droid. 3PO went with R2 when he left Tatooine, travelling to Geonosis. There, R2-D2 was witness to the first major battle of the Clone Wars. After Geonosis, R2 and Threepio also attended the marriage of Padmé and Anakin – one of many secrets R2-D2 would keep. Gifted to Anakin, R2 served the Jedi faithfully through many adventures during the Clone Wars. Unfortunately, Anakin's destiny was a dark one. When Anakin became Darth Vader, and Padmé died shortly after the birth of Luke and Leia, R2 and Threepio became the property of Senator Bail Organa, who had adopted Leia. While Threepio's memory was wiped, R2's was not. Whatever the reason, this was to have far-reaching consequences for the Skywalker dynasty.

Like Mother, Like Daughter

The Clone Wars had taken its toll on many of R2's unique components. Many of the damaged and failing parts

Though R2 would never fully understand the Force – a thing his sensors could never detect – he trusted his master, Luke, and stayed with him despite the many indignities he suffered.



Did You Know...?

R2-D2 was separated from Luke on Endor when the Jedi went to confront Darth Vader and the Emperor. R2 helped General Han Solo's strike team to bring down the shield protecting the second Death Star. Shot by a stormtrooper, R2-D2 was repaired in time to celebrate the death of the Emperor. When the resurrected Emperor returned years later, R2 was instrumental in stopping his superweapons – the World Devastators, the Galaxy Gun, and the immense Star Destroyer *Eclipse II*.

were removed, to be replaced by equipment better suiting his duties aboard Bail Organa's senatorial transport, *Tantive IV*. During a training drill involving the vessel's escape pods, R2 and 3PO were accidentally jettisoned. The ship fled from a pirate attack, leaving the droids 'lost'. After many adventures together, solidifying their friendship, the droids were recovered and returned to the *Tantive IV*, which was now the personal vessel of Leia Organa. By then, she and her father were deeply involved with the Rebel Alliance. Already a Senator, Leia was every inch Padmé's daughter. Unfortunately, Leia's luck ran out and the *Tantive IV* was attacked by none other than Darth Vader.

Like Father, Like Son

By the time Vader's troops had captured *Tantive IV*, R2-D2 and C-3PO had fled the ship, heading for Tatooine. Entrusted with the plans for the Death Star, R2 had been told to find Obi-Wan Kenobi. However, the droids were captured by wandering Jawas and sold to the guardians of Luke Skywalker. Events beyond his control propelled the young man into the galactic civil war, and soon he and R2 were flying an X-wing starfighter to destroy the Death Star. From that point, R2-D2 and Luke were inseparable as the young man matured from Rebel hero to become the first of a new Jedi Order as Jedi Master Skywalker. Many years later, R2 was able to show Luke and Leia an image of Padmé – their lost mother. R2-D2 continued in the service of the Skywalker family and was still part of the Jedi Academy 137 years after the Battle of Yavin, serving Cade Skywalker, Luke's descendant.

YODA'S ESCAPE PODS

ESCAPING THE SITH

In the wake of the Battle of Kashyyyk, Yoda was forced to flee the massacre of the Jedi using an escape pod hidden by the Wookiees. Later, the Jedi Master would use another escape pod to make his secret trip into exile on the planet Dagobah.

On the Wookiee homeworld of Kashyyyk, Yoda led the forces of the Republic to a great victory against the Separatists. Even as the battle drew to a thunderous conclusion, Order 66 turned clone troopers against Jedi generals and Yoda, sensing the deaths of so very many old friends, was forced into hiding while he tried to find out what was happening. He made his escape in one of the evacuation pods that the Wookiees, so often persecuted, had hidden around their planet. These non-standard craft were designed and built by Uurbahhahvoow Joiners & Artisans for a last-chance evacuation of the planet. Disabling the pod's distress signal, Yoda used his own emergency beacon and was rescued by Bail Organa.

E3-standard starship lifeboat

Type
Escape pod

Manufacturer
His Grace the Duke Gadal-Herm's Safety Inspectorate

Dimensions
4m long, 3.5m diameter

Passengers
3

Consumables
4 weeks' supply

Undetected

Having failed to stop the Emperor, and having secured a future for the children of Padmé Amidala and Anakin Skywalker, Yoda went into exile. Years before, after Obi-Wan discovered Geonosis had been deleted from the Jedi records, Yoda spent some time searching out other such 'missing' worlds. One of these was the remote swamp world of Dagobah. Having quietly attended the funeral of Padmé

Amidala on Naboo, Yoda secretly returned to Polis Massa. From there, he stowed away aboard an automated grain carrier. It dropped out of hyperspace near Dagobah, allowing Yoda to board an E3-standard starship lifeboat. Unrecorded, the pod departed the freighter and landed on the swamp world. Using supplies from the pod, and eventually parts of the vehicle itself, Yoda began his long wait for his final student – Luke Skywalker.

Wookiee Evacuation pod

Type
Surface to space evacuation pod

Manufacturer
Uurbahhahvoow Joiners & Artisans

Dimensions
3.4m long, 2.3m diameter

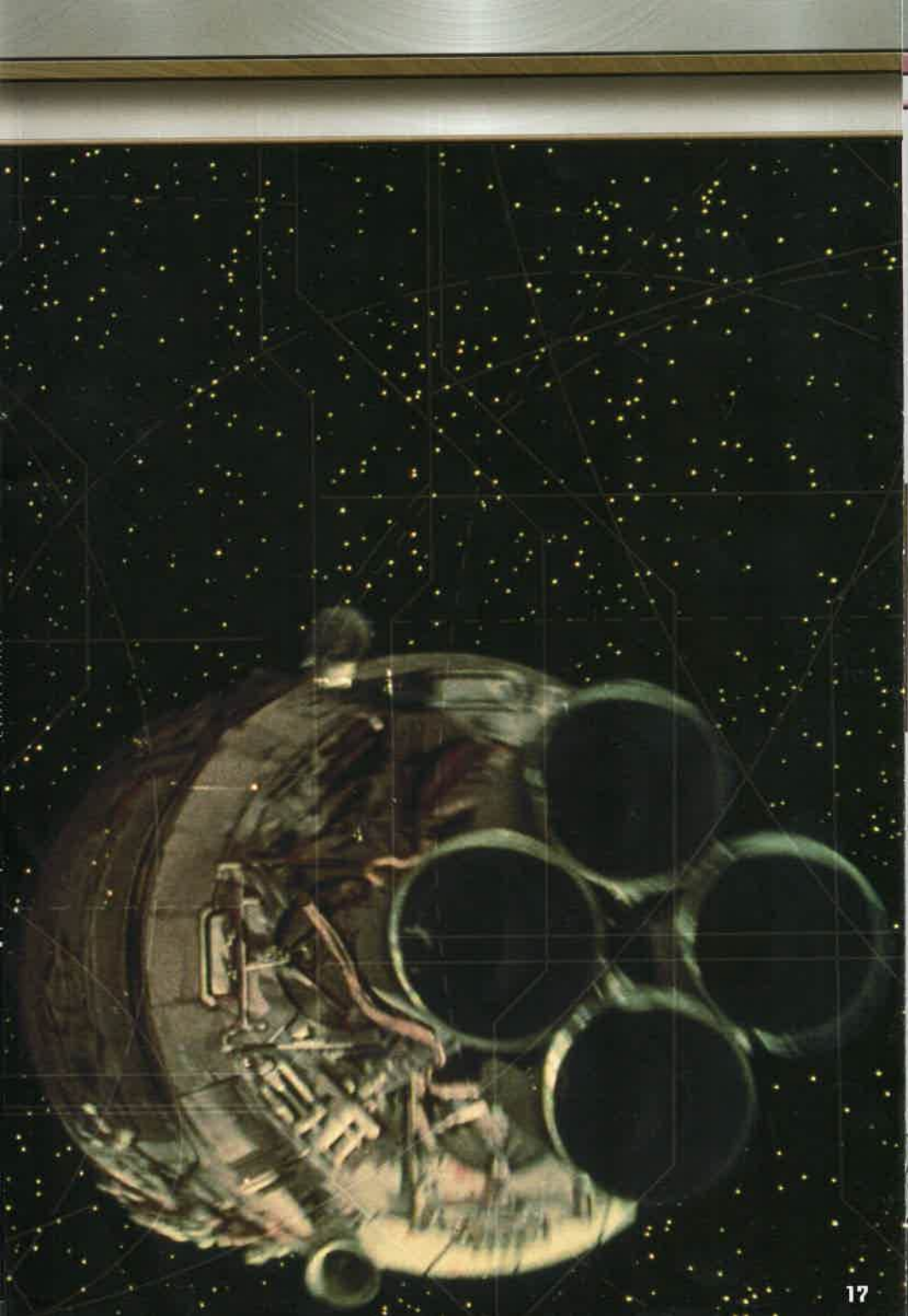
Passengers
1

Consumables
1 week's supply

TANTIVE IV ESCAPE POD

DROIDS' LIFELINE

The CR70 corvette on which *Tantive IV* was based only carried two high-capacity escape pods, which were replaced by turbolasers when she was upgraded to a CR90. The ship gained four large Faberstien Maximum Capacity lifeships, along with eight simple class-6 pods. These were later upgraded to Faberstien-Lago 37s, one of which C-3PO and R2-D2 would use to escape to Tatooine.



FABERSTIEN-LAGO 37s ESCAPE POD

Type
Escape Pod (upgraded)

Manufacturer
Faberstien-Lago (upgrading Corellian Engineering Corporation original Class-6 pod)

Size
3.5m long

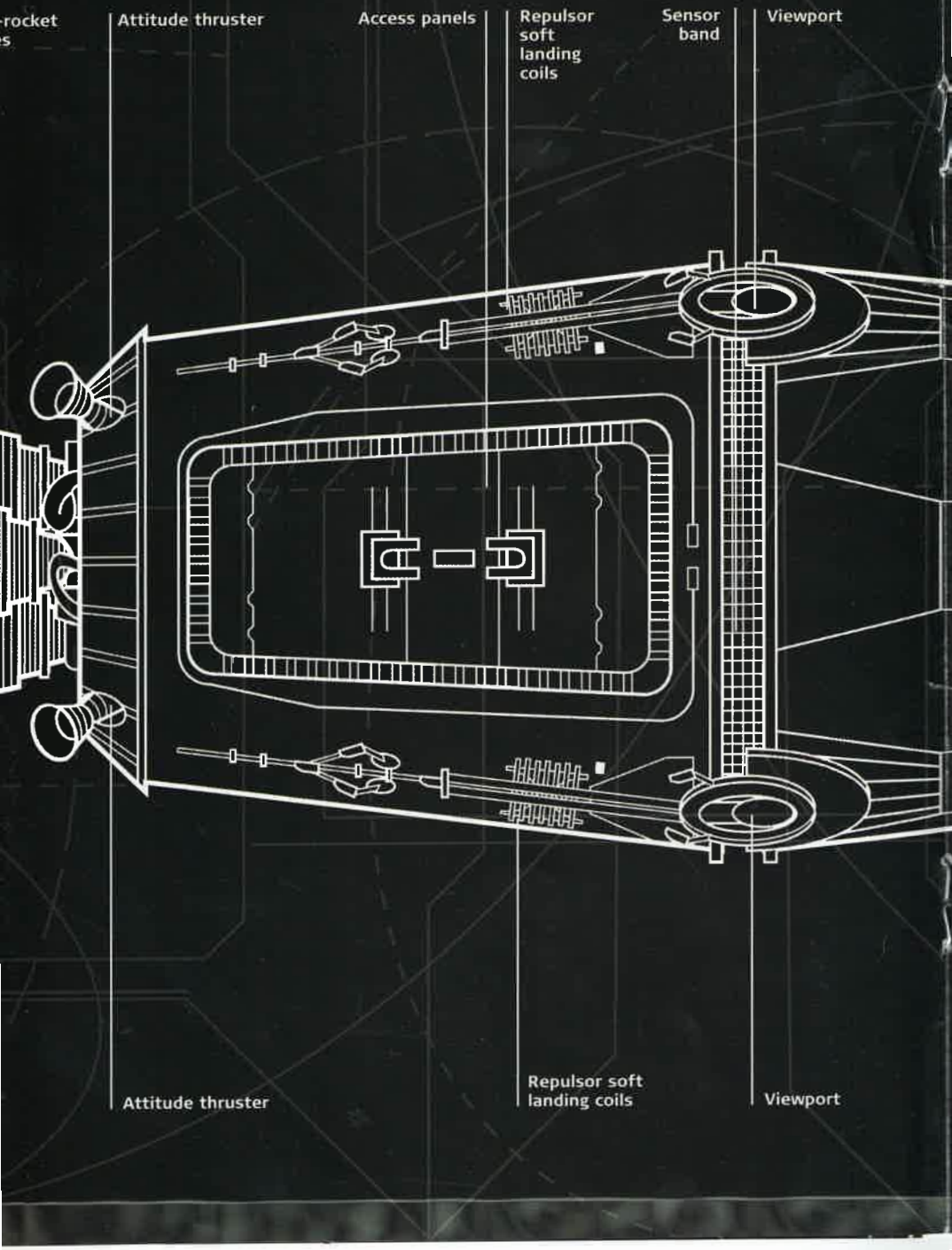
Passengers
6

Consumables
2 weeks

Wookie pod designs

There were innumerable varieties of escape pods in the galaxy, including bespoke one-of-a-kinds.

On Kashyyyk, towards the end of the Clone Wars, the Wookiee engineers of Uurbahhahvoow Joiners & Artisans built a great many evacuation pods designed to carry Wookiee refugees up from the planet into interstellar space to await rescue.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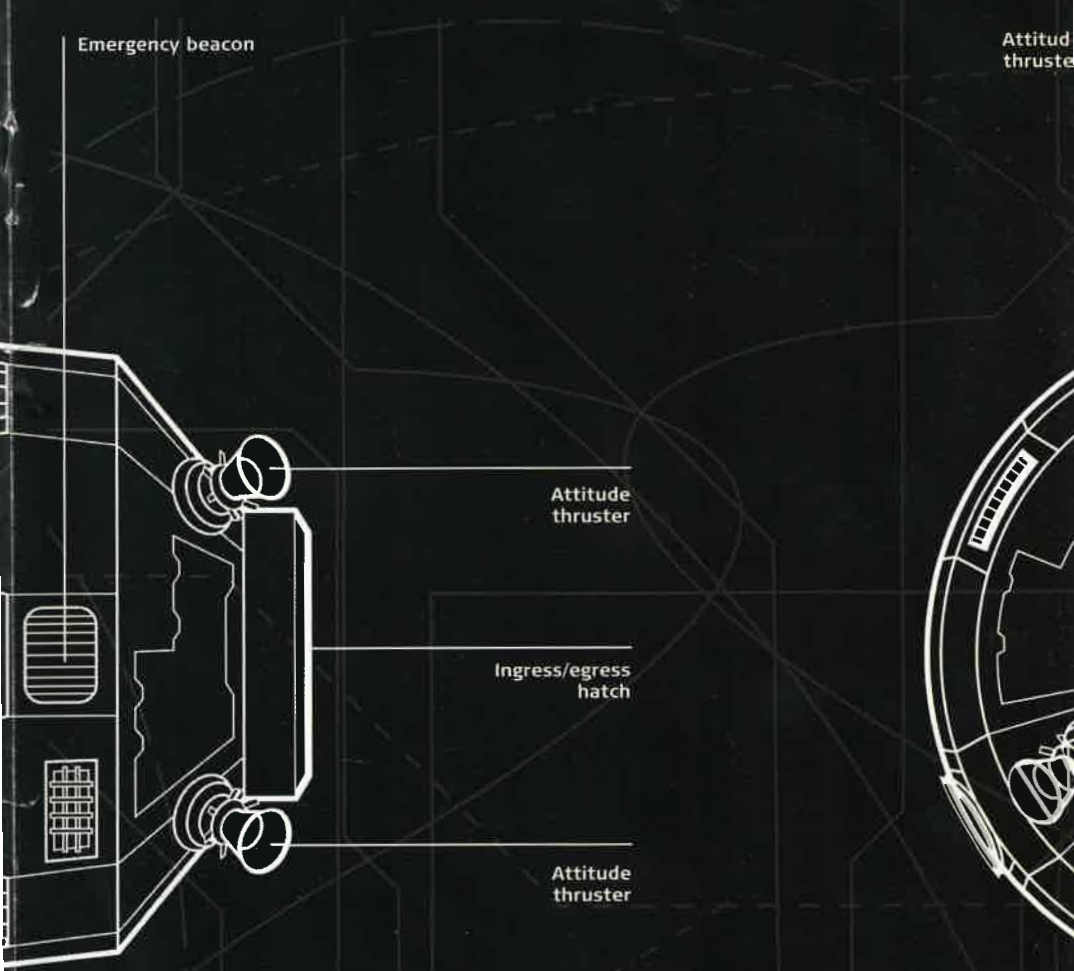
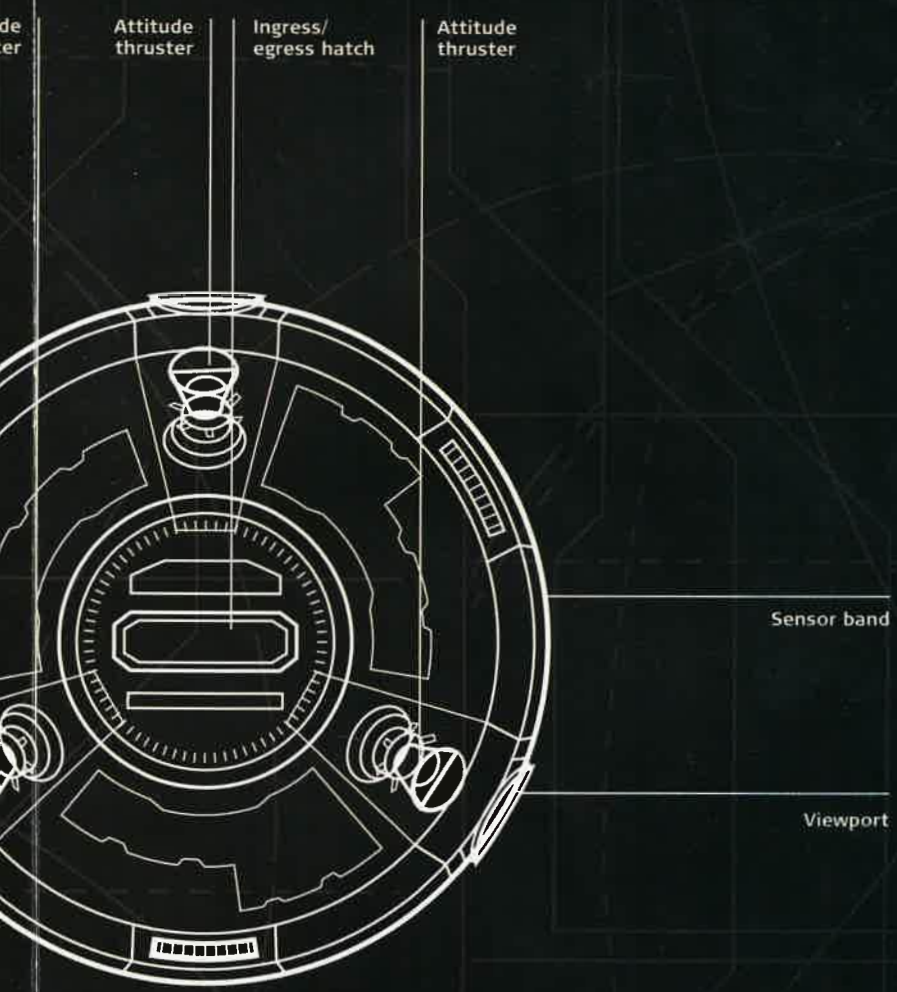
Attitude thruster
Access panels
Repulsor soft landing coils
Sensor band
Viewport
Attitude thruster
Repulsor soft landing coils
Viewport



A pod is typica
explosive-base
the event of co
exploding latch



ally oriented to allow for a simple chemical or
ed launch. This allows the pod to be ejected in
omplete power loss in the mother ship. A series of
hes hurl the pod into space.

GARINDAN
THE KUBAZ SPY 'LONG-SNOOT'

It took a being of particular skill and cunning to survive as an independent information broker on any Hutt-controlled world. On Tatooine, the cloaked and goggled Kubaz called Garindan was just such an individual. When he spoke, even Jabba the Hutt listened – and paid up.

From the impoverished Hive Zabin, in the very dangerous Siler Forest of Dreams on the Kubaz homeworld Kubindi, Garindan was one of many members of his species who were sent out into the galaxy to gather information on other worlds, other species and (of huge importance to the Kubaz) other types of food. Unlike many, Garindan thrived. In fact, he became phenomenally wealthy, though none even on Tatooine – a place full of spies and thieves – ever found out where Garindan lived or what he did with his money.

Studied Neutrality

Garindan carried a Merr-Sonn model 434 blaster pistol in the voluminous black robes that shielded his sensitive skin. As with all Kubaz, Garindan's eyes were sensitive to the light from red or yellow stars, so he was forced to wear goggles on Tatooine. The Kubaz learned never to take sides, never to get involved, and always to be sure that his information went to the highest bidder. On Tatooine, that was usually Jabba the Hutt – though Garindan also traded with the Lady Valarian and with the Empire. Jabba valued Garindan's information, though the crime lord was always concerned about how much the Kubaz knew about his own operations. The Hutt needn't have worried – Garindan knew which secrets to sell, and which to keep to himself.

Imperial Entanglements

When Darth Vader sent troops to Tatooine to recover the Death Star plans, the Imperial prefect of Tatooine secured Garindan's services. The wily Kubaz found the renegade droids R2-D2 and C-3PO and followed them to Docking Bay 94 before alerting the authorities and collecting his pay. Garindan would later assist Darth Vader by tracing Luke Skywalker's movements on Tatooine, helping the Sith to confirm that it was Luke who had destroyed the Death Star.

Did You Know...?

Sound designer Ben Burtt took dialogue spoken by John Wayne and modulated and otherwise tinkered with it to produce the Kubaz's buzzing alien speech. Garindan was played by Sadie Eden, a British stuntwoman.

PROFILE

Garindan

Homeworld
Kubindi

Species
Kubaz

Gender
Male

Height
1.85m

Weapon
Merr-Sonn model 434 blaster pistol

Affiliation
None

POLIS MASSA

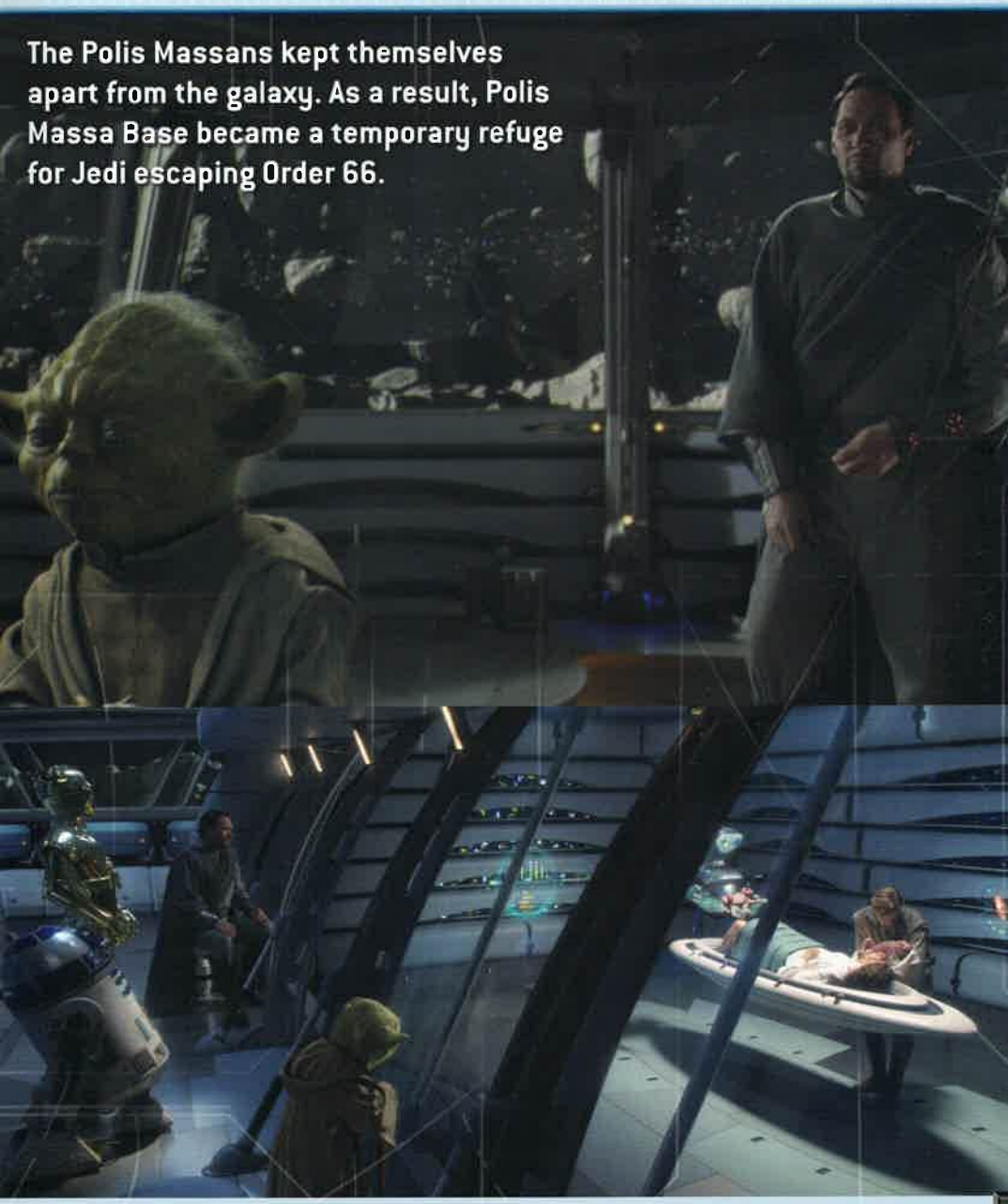
WILD SPACE SANCTUARY

Beyond the Outer Rim territories was Wild Space – a region of the galaxy that, just before the Clone Wars, had been charted but not fully explored. Here was to be found the sundered world of Polis Massa.

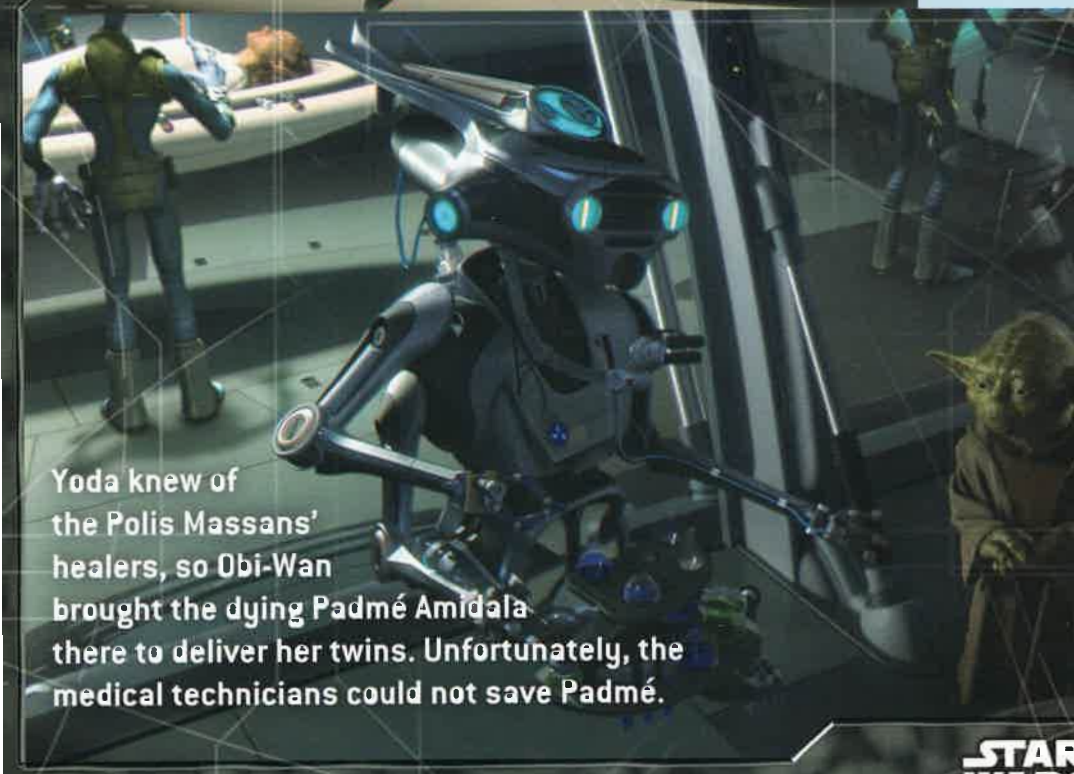
Long ago, an uninviting planet existed near the edge of the galaxy. Polis Massa was, nonetheless, the home world of the Eellayin, whose civilisation thrived in underground cities. Little more is known about them, as the Eellayin vanished when their planet exploded and its remains became an asteroid field in the Subterrel sector of Wild Space.

Founding Polis Massa Base

Approximately 500 years before the Clone Wars, a secretive species called the Kallidahin left their own home world, Kallidah – also in the Subterrel sector – and emigrated en masse to the asteroids of Polis Massa. The Kallidahin were convinced that the Eellayin were their ancestors. To prove this, they intended to excavate the entirety of the Polis Massa field, if necessary, to find surviving biological evidence to support their theory. However, over the centuries, the Kallidahin largely forgot about Kallidah and became known as Polis Massans. Though the Polis Massans worked throughout the asteroid field, only the larger chunks of the former planet were fully settled. By far the largest settlement was Polis Massa Base, established on the largest asteroid of Polis Massa. The facility was also the base of operations for the Kallidahin Archaeological Research Council who had suggested, organised and overseen the mass emigration from Kallidah. The site of Polis Massa Base was initially chosen because of the size of the planetary fragment, though its position was to prove fortuitous. A little over 400 years later, excavators discovered the remains of a large underground city. A substantial Local Dig archaeological facility was set up over the city, which they later discovered was called Wiyeentah.



The Polis Massans kept themselves apart from the galaxy. As a result, Polis Massa Base became a temporary refuge for Jedi escaping Order 66.



Yoda knew of the Polis Massans' healers, so Obi-Wan brought the dying Padmé Amidala there to deliver her twins. Unfortunately, the medical technicians could not save Padmé.

Did you know...?

Polis Massa was called Polis Matza during script development. The medical chamber and observation room were full sets, built on Stage 7 at Fox Studios Australia. However, the observation dome where Yoda waited for Obi-Wan was a miniature, filmed at ILM.

Archaeologists and Healers

The Polis Massans' obsession with their ancestry had a number of unusual side effects. The species included many expert xenobiologists, born of the need to discover their alien origins. While technically part of the Galactic Republic, the Polis Massans did little to break their isolation, preferring simply to continue their exploration of the Polis Massa asteroids. They studied other species only from a distance; their physiology preventing them speaking – save for a precious few inheritors of a genetic quirk – or even emoting thanks to the membrane that rendered them largely featureless, complicating diplomatic relations. Regardless, the Polis Massans built up an impressive xenobiological databank. The species had some limited contact with the Kaminoans, borrowing some of their cloning technology as they sought to recreate ancient Polis Massa life forms from recovered DNA. Their need to extract genetic material from their archaeological finds led to Polis Massans' medical technicians becoming famed for their skills as dedicated healers.

Contact

Polis Massa Base housed the largest medical facility that the Polis Massans operated. It received semi-regular visitors, as did the base as a whole. The Polis Massans tried to keep as low a profile as possible, and not just because they found communications outside of their own species to be awkward. Wild Space and the Outer Rim territories were prey to regular pirate activity. So far from the Republic, the non-aggressive, non-confrontational Polis Massans sought quiet secrecy as a shield against unwanted attention.

BEING ARTOO

KENNY BAKER AND DON BIES

Bringing R2-D2 to life on the screen was a technical challenge from the beginning. The droid led a double life, both as a costume operated by Kenny Baker and a mechanical unit remote-controlled by Don Bies.

During the filming of both Episodes IV and V, the radio-controlled R2 units were temperamental to say the least – regularly refusing to answer their controllers, wandering off, and generally being as independent in real life as R2 is in the films. By Episode VI, the technology had advanced to the point where they were far more reliable. However, there was still a place for the R2 'suit' operated by Kenny Baker. The specially built costume, with cut-off shoes in the 'feet' that Baker bought specially for the technicians to use, allowed Kenny to sit inside and operate various lights and appendages. He could also turn the droid's head and even rock R2-D2 from side to side. All of this added the necessary 'human' element to R2's performance.

Kenny Baker

Born in Birmingham, England, on 24 August, 1934, Baker performed the role of R2-D2 in five of the six *Star Wars* films (while credited as R2 for Episode III, he did not climb back into the suit for that film). Kenny Baker's long and varied film and television career also includes uncredited appearances in Lucasfilm's *Willow* (as a Nelwyn band member), as well as *Flash Gordon*, *Time Bandits* (with Jack Purvis again), *Amadeus*, *Mona Lisa*, Jim Henson's *Labyrinth*, and in the BBC's long running medical drama *Casualty* (he appeared twice – once in 1992 and again in 2007).

Varied Career

Kenny started performing as early as 1950, at the tender age of 16, with Burton Lester's Midgets. He became a DJ, then moved on to join Billy

Beneath the Dome

In January 2000, Don Bies was appointed as supervisor of the droid unit for Episode II, leading the renovation and modernisation of 16 R2-D2 units by ILM. As R2's operator, he participated in the first phase of filming in Australia, Italy, Tunisia and London. With technician Justin Dix, he redesigned the C-3PO costume for Episode II to better suit the needs of performer Anthony Daniels.

Bies was a driving force behind the mockumentary *R2-D2: Beneath The Dome* – co-writing, co-directing, and even co-starring in the sequence which appeared as an extra on the DVD release of Episode II.

Smart's Circus as a clown and shadow ringmaster. For nine years, Baker toured in panto and in ice shows. He was working cabaret with lifelong friend Jack Purvis as The Mini Tones when the casting call came through for the role of R2-D2. He insisted he couldn't possibly not work with Purvis, so Jack became Chief Jawa in that movie, and worked on Episodes IV to VI. Both played Ewoks in the third film, with Kenny originally slated to play Wicket. However, when Baker fell ill, the role went to Warwick Davis, with Kenny eventually playing Paploo, the Ewok who stole the Imperial speeder bike.

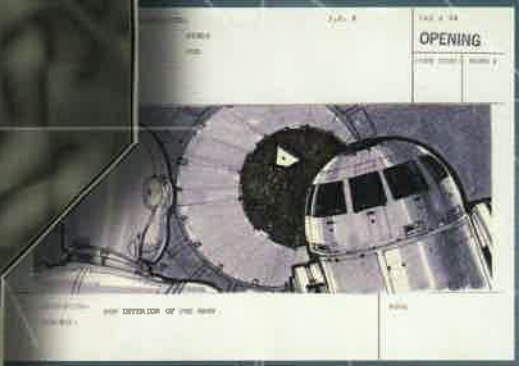
Don Bies

Bies began his career as a special effects artist on David Cronenberg's 1986 version of *The Fly*. After making *The Fly II* in 1989, he was hired by ILM to work on *Indiana Jones and the Last Crusade*. In 1997 he worked on the Special Editions of Episodes V and VI, eventually becoming R2-D2's operator for Episode I: *The Phantom Menace* and the other two prequels. He has made brief acting cameos in Episode VI's Special Edition, as well as in all three prequels.

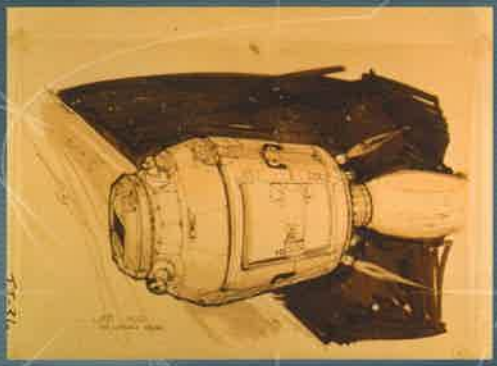
THE ESCAPE POD

FIRST OF A KIND

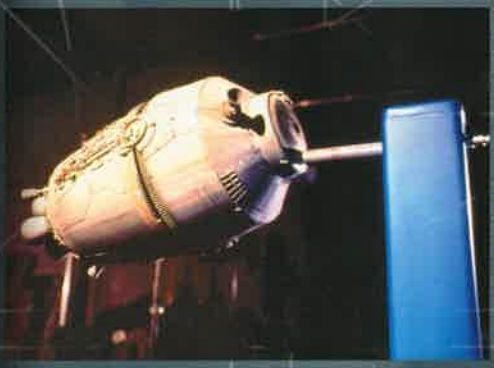
CREATING THE ESCAPE POD



1 A storyboard showing C-3PO and R2-D2 escaping from *Tantive IV*.



2 A concept sketch of the pod itself was drawn by artist Joe Johnstone.



5 For filming, the model was supported on a blue pylon, which was later removed from shot.

6 A behind-the-scenes shot of the escape pod being filmed by the ILM special effects team.

The escape pod, described by modelmaker Lorne Peterson as a 'five-day wonder', was hurriedly put together in under a week and was built around two paper paint buckets. The launch of the escape pod from *Tantive IV* was the first visual-effect shot ever completed by ILM.

3 The model of the escape pod takes shape in the ILM workshops.

4 The model escape pod used in filming Episode IV: *A New Hope* measured 21 x 21 x 44cm.

7 When lit for filming, the model pod looked convincingly realistic.

8 Designs for the escape pod that Yoda used to reach Dagobah in Episode III.

1 What was Polis Massa first called?

2 Who created the Polis Massans?

3 What was the first ever visual effect completed by Industrial Light & Magic?

ANSWERS:

1. The early scripts for *Revenge of the Sith* called the asteroid base Polis Matza. During pre-production, slowed-down footage from the asteroid field in *The Empire Strikes Back* was used as placeholder footage.

2. The Polis Massans began as a rejected concept from Doug Chiang's work on the more elegant Kaminoans from Episode II. Model-maker Michael Partick refined the designs for Episode III.

3. The launch of the escape pod from the *Tantive IV* was the first visual effects shot ever completed by ILM.

K

Klatooinian

Species
Episodes I, II, IV

More than 25 millennia before the Battle of Yavin, the Hutt clans fought against the forces of Xim, the despotic ruler of the Tion Cluster. Hutt emissaries contacted many peoples looking for allies, including the humanoid Klatooinians. Barada M'Beg promised an eternity of Klatooinian servitude to the Hutts if they could defeat Xim. As a result, even by the age of the New Republic, Klatooinians still served Hutts as slaves, sold into the life as youths by their revered elders. Klatooinians had a society founded on patience and endurance. Their very traditional culture saw wisdom and strength coming from the older members of their people and their planet, Klatooine, was ruled by the Council of Elders.

Kouhun

Creature
Episode II

These photophobic, multi-legged creatures originate from the jungles and forests of Indoumodo, a planet in Wild Space. Escaped kouhuns are the bane of many a world. Growing to around 30cm, they are hugely poisonous, delivering a fast and invariably fatal bite, or paralysing tail-sting. The kouhuns then use their saliva to liquefy the flesh for slow, messy consumption. Favoured by assassins throughout the galaxy, Jango Fett gave Zam Wesell a pair of starved kouhuns with which to assassinate Senator Padmé Amidala.

Krayt Dragon

Creature
Expanded Universe

Tatooine's mighty and elusive ten-legged greater krayt dragon is the rarer of the desert world's two main species, and can grow to over 100m. It can reputedly 'swim' through the sands of the Dune Sea, as well as walking on top. The smaller, 45m canyon krayt is more common – though still rare. Both live for some 100 standard years, with the so-called Ancient Krayt Dragons living even longer. It is not know whether these proven relatives of Ruusan's kell dragon are native to Tatooine, although both creatures feature strongly in the cultures of the Jawas and the Sand People.

Kun, Exar

Character
Expanded Universe

Four thousand years before the Battle of Yavin, Jedi Knight Exar Kun sought forbidden Sith knowledge from the spirit of Freedon Nadd. As Nadd's apprentice, Exar Kun gave himself to the dark side and travelled to Yavin 4, where he killed his master. Destroying any rivals, Nadd seduced other Jedi, including Ulic Qel-Droma, to his cause. Kun was finally defeated in a battle that wiped out Yavin 4's remaining Massassi natives. Kun's spirit was trapped in the temples, returning later to attack Luke Skywalker when he used the ruins for his new Jedi Academy. With Luke in a coma, his students worked together to destroy Kun.

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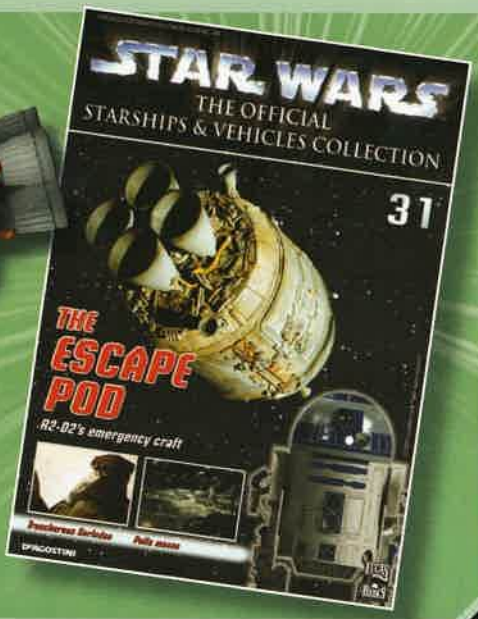

WITH ISSUE 31:
THE ESCAPE POD

IN YOUR NEXT ISSUE

WITH ISSUE 32:
REPUBLIC ATTACK
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